**Modern equipments for Indian Navy**

4192. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item 'Navy shying away from high seas';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy has become incapable of undertaking 'open ocean work' for lack of appropriate fleet, equipment and infrastructure and has, therefore, asked for its upgradation and augmentation in a major way to prepare it to face the present day challenges; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Navy is fully capable of undertaking 'open ocean work'.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Upgradation/Augmentation of Indian Navy is an ongoing process dictated primarily by the threat perceptions, prevailing external strategic/ security environment, as also the emerging technologies.

**Fleet composition of Indian Navy**

4193. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that dominance of small ships in the naval fleet imposes limitations of reach of Indian Navy;

(b) the ideal number of aircraft carriers required by the Indian Navy *vis-a-vis* present number of aircraft carriers with Indian Navy; and

(c) the reasons for treating Indian Navy as "Cindrella service"?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Because of limited endurance of small ships, they impose limitations on the reach of Indian Navy.

(b) One Aircraft Carrier *viz.* INS Viraat is in service with the Indian Navy against the requirement of two operational Aircraft Carriers.